UNITED STATES EMBASSY BRUSSELS. BELGIUM

Security Message for U.S. Citizens: Protests in Brussels on January 21 and 22, 2015.

The U.S. Embassy Brussels informs all U.S. citizens that following protests are expected in Brussels. Police will maintain order.

On January 21, from 10:30 to 12:30 hours a labor rally in support of trade union demands will take place in the vicinity of Gare Centrale/Central station (in red on map). Approximately 400 people are expected to participate. Local police will be present.

A vigil in support of environmental conservation will take place on Place Luxembourg/EU Parliament (in blue on map) on January 22 from 12:30 to 14:30 hours. Local police will be present.

Demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. You should avoid areas of demonstrations, and exercise caution if in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Belgium enroll in the Department of State's <u>Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)</u>. STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Regularly monitor the <u>State Department's website</u> where you can find current Travel Warnings, (including the Travel Warning for Belgium if appropriate), Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution, Read the <u>Country Specific Information for Belgium</u>. For additional information, refer to <u>Traveler's Checklist</u>.

Contact the U.S. embassy or consulate for up-to-date information on travel restrictions. You can also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free from within the United States and Canada, or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

Follow us on <u>Twitter</u> and <u>Facebook</u>.

The U.S. Embassy in Brussels is located at Blvd du Regent 27, 1000 Brussels and is open Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (except U.S. federal and Belgian holidays). If you are a U.S. citizen in need of urgent assistance, the emergency number for the U.S, Embassy is: 02-811-4000.

